

Attention Military Times Editors,

Initially we were pleased to learn you are conducting a survey of your readers asking, “What would you do without military commissaries?”

Although the majority of your questions are straightforward, one of your questions is extremely misleading. You ask participants if they would accept the closure of some commissaries. The choices were – a consolidation with exchanges to preserve some savings, a promise not to diminish other benefits, keeping commissaries open at large or isolated installations, or some sort of voucher.

You do not provide participants an opportunity to say “leave my commissaries alone, find saving elsewhere.” This is disingenuous and skews the results of your survey. Surveys should not have a particular bias but this question leads us to believe yours does.

If given a real opportunity to express their concerns, we believe military families will tell you that commissaries are one of their most valuable earned benefits and they should be protected not consistently undermined. Unfortunately, your survey does not provide this venue. Military families wishing to express their concerns will need to do so on their own, which many of them have already done.

We have asked our members to reach out to President Obama, who said it best at Camp Pendleton this past August when commissaries were closed due to government furloughs, he said:

“...the commissary your families rely on closed a day a week. We can do better than that. That’s not how a great nation should be treating its military and military families.”

We couldn’t agree more.

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